EXPERT MEETING ON HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING

Danube Commission, Budapest 5th of March 2025



MONITORING, REHABILITATATION AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES IN 2024

Analysis of the hydrological and navigational conditions 2024



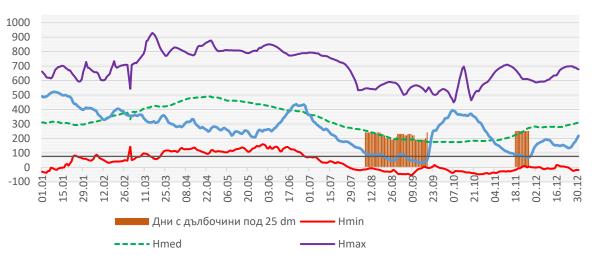
2024 began with relatively high water levels untypical for the period. A gradual decrease followed, with water levels below the average multi-annual norms observed from February to June. In June, an increase began, with levels reaching 428 cm at Svishtov gauging station. The spring high-water was absent. A gradual and permanent decrease in water levels began, with values below the LNWL on 21.08.2024.

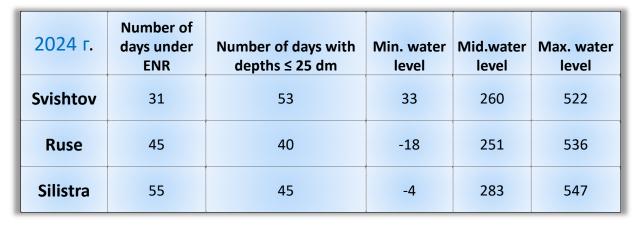
In September an increase of water discharge, caused by the cyclone Boris in western and central Europe was recorded. After the outflow of the discharge from 23.11.2024, levels below the LNWL were observed again.

From a hydrological point of view 2024 can be considered normal to low-water, with 70% of the days having levels below the average multi-annual norms.

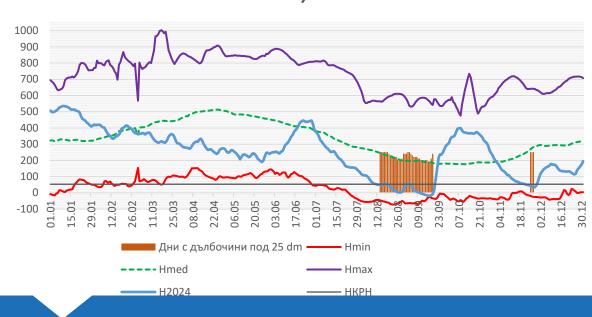
Water levels

Water levels in Svishtov, rkm 554.300 - 2024

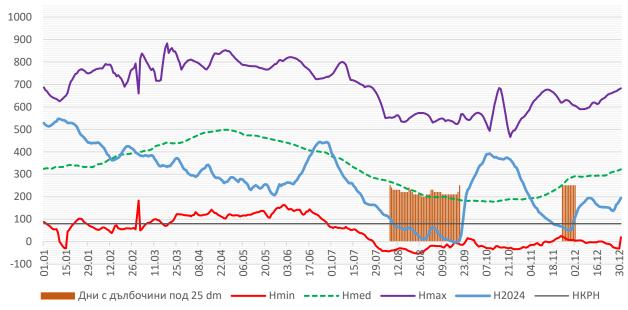




Water levels in Ruse, rkm 495.600 - 2024



Water levels in Silistra, rkm 375.500 - 2024



Average daily and average monthly air temperatures:

Дата	Декември	Януари	Февруари
1	4.5	5.3	7.1
2	5.0	5.8	5.6
3	5.1	7.4	3.6
4	5.7	3.4	1.8
5	3.5	1.7	2.4
6	3.7	3.0	1.3
7	3.5	6.3	-0.1
8	5.9	11.3	-1.4
9	6.3	10.5	-2.3
10	4.6	8.1	-2.9
11	6.6	3.8	-2.2
12	5.0	0.5	-1.7
13	2.4	1.5	1.2
14	4.1	0.6	4.6
15	4.2	0.8	-0.2
16	6.5	0.9	0.3
17	11.0	3.2	-2.0
18	6.8	2.4	-2.6
19	6.0	2.3	-4.0
20	5.3	2.7	-6.9
21	4.3	3.5	-5.7
22	3.1	3.9	-6.7
23	1.4	8.8	-6.6
24	6.1	9.5	
25	4.3	7.2	
26	1.3	4.5	
27	0.9	7.2	
28	1.7	9.4	
29	2.6	10.3	
30	3.3	10.0	
31	-0.3	7.6	
Месец	Декември	Януари	Февруари
t min	-2.6	-3.8	-13.8
t med	4.3	5.2	-0.6
t max	16.2	19.9	12.8

Characteristics of the winter season 2024/2025 Hydro-meteo station Ruse

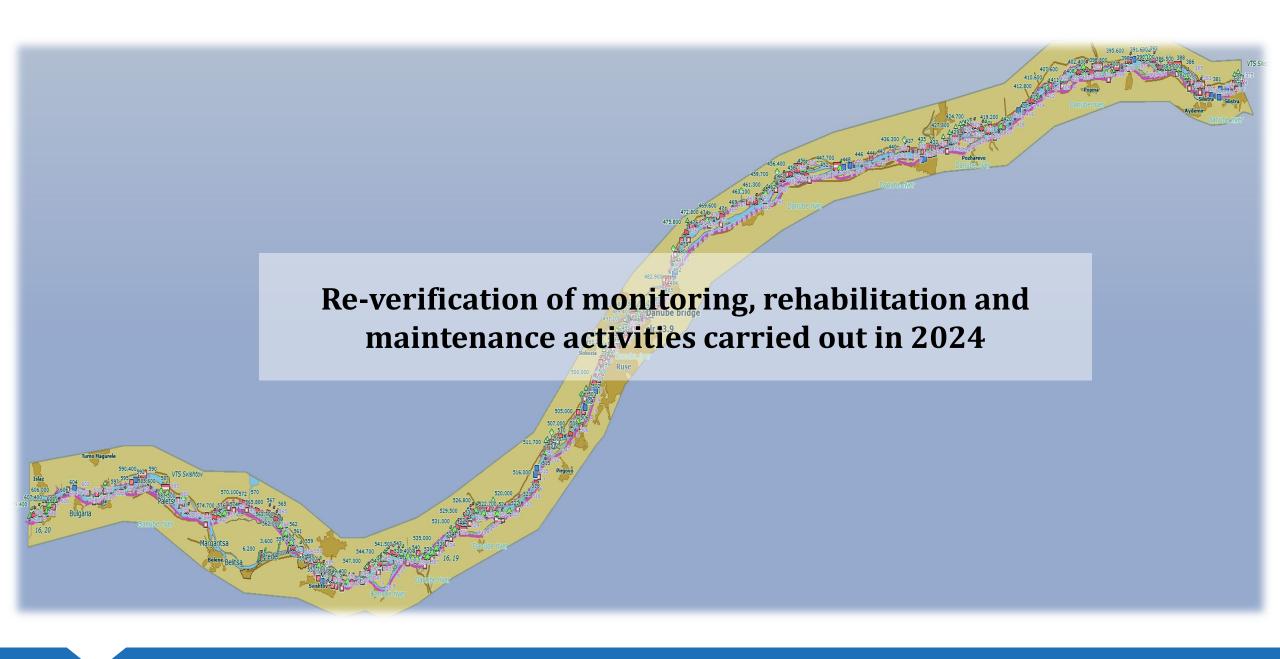
The winter of 2024/2025 for Ruse is relatively warm - with an average temperature for the season of 2.0°C, this winter it is 3.0°C.

The absolute minimal temperature is -13.8 °C, measured on 22.02.2025.

The absolute maximal temperature is 19.9 °C, measured on 29.01.2025.

The maximal amount of days with average negative daily temperatures is -34.3°C, with an average daily temperature of -3.8°C. The number of frosty days during the season is 35, and of icy days is 6.

Daily online meetings were held between EAEMDR and AFDJ in order to exchange information about the current navigational situation and the forecasts for water levels, weather forecasts, ice phenomena forecast as well as foreseen measures that should be taken preventively and in the event of critical situations.



NAVIGATIONAL CONDITIONS

During 2024 in the common Bg-Ro stretch 25 bottlenecks were monitored.

For the sector between Ruse and Somovit limiting were the bottlenecks Belene isl. (rkm. 565.000 - 563.000), Vardim isl. (547.000 - 544.000) and Batin isl. (529.000 - 527.000), while for the sector between Ruse and Silistra limiting were the bottlenecks Vetren isl. and Chaika isl. (395.000 - 392.000 and 386.000 - 382.000)

Charts of all bottlenecks in the Bulgarian section (км. 374.10 — км. 610.00)

	↓		1		
385.00 — 382.00	395.00 — 392.00	400.00 - 398.00	406.00 - 403.00	414.00 - 412.00	
423.00 - 421.00	425.00 - 423.00	428.00 - 425.00	458.00 - 454.00	463.00 - 460.00	
476.00 - 472.00	489.00 - 486.00	525.00 - 522.00	530.00 - 527.00	533.00 - 530.00	
539.00 - 536.00	545.00 - 543.00	547.00 - 545.00	556.00 - 554.00	562.00 - 559.00	
565.00 - 563.00	576.00 - 573.00	586.00 - 584.00	591.00 - 589.00	609.00 - 607.00	

NAVIGATIONAL CONDITIONS

Fairway maintenance in the Bulgarian part of the river was performed by the marking vessel "Osam" and the surveying vessels "Rs 2070" and "Dunav-1". While doing so more than 5 000 km were traveled by marking vessel "Osam" with usage of 200 days/year. The fairway optimization was implemented by maintenance of the navigational signals (floating and coastal), survey and on-time corrections of the fairway. During the year the marking system was secured by 165 floating signals, out of which 31 illuminated and 17 right river bank beacons.

Fairway corrections were made by:

•	Mounting of floating signals	524
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•	Dismounting	of floating signals	518
	O	0 0	

•	Single-beam surveys	197
		, ,

Multi-beam surveys 65

The information is published on APPD's web-site https://appd-bg.org

NAVIGATIONAL-CONDITIONS

Navigation	conditions
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Locality	km	sign	distance from shore [m]	depth at sign(m)	coordinate	coordinates		
			left	right		latitude	longitude	
Silistra	375.30	7						2017-05-21
Silistra	382.00	И						2017-05-21
Silistra	382.10		240	520	7.00	44.1217500	27.1822666	2023-09-27
Chaika isl.	385.10		150	180	3.75	44.1369500	27.1580333	2024-09-04
Chaika isl.	385.80		220	860	2.90	44.1393333	27.1477333	2024-09-04
Aidemir	386.10		150	780	2.40	44.1406666	27.1420000	2024-09-04
Aidemir	387.00		460	290	5.20	44.1380166	27.1336000	2024-07-09
Aidemir	388.00	•						2017-05-21
Aidemir	388.00	Ħ						2017-05-21
Aidemir	388.00	7						2017-05-21
Aidemir	388.00		340	320	6.80	44.1393833	27.1245166	2024-07-24
Aidemir	388.30	Ħ				44.1364833	27.1190667	2016-07-14
Aidemir	388.90		330	380	6.00	44.13885	26.1149	2024-04-10

Coastal beacon	17
Illuminated buoys	31
Non - illuminated buoys	134
Bridge signalization	4
Other coastal signalization	223
Total:	409

Maximum number of navigational signals used during the period

For the last 3 years compared to the year 2024, the number of signals on the navigation conditions have increased by more than 20%, and from an average of 120 signals we reached 165 signals, 31 of which are illuminated.



Number of single- and multibeam surveys

2024 (01.01 - 31.12.2024)					
	MB	SB			
January	6	18			
February	2	11			
March	3	19			
April	4	19			
May	6	20			
June	5	10			
July	7	12			
August	12	17			
September	7	21			
October	6	25			
November	6	13			
December	1	12			
Total:	65	197			

NAVIGATIONAL CONDITIONS

Hydrographic surveys

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2024 → 65 locations with approx. area 60 938 731 m<sup>2</sup>
         \rightarrow 54 locations with approx. area 68 591 569 m<sup>2</sup>;
2023
         \rightarrow 38 locations with approx. area 31 821 874 m<sup>2</sup>;
2022
         \rightarrow 59 locations with approx. area 55 039 626 m<sup>2</sup>;
2021
         \rightarrow 51 locations with approx. area 45 987 863 m<sup>2</sup>;
2020
         \rightarrow 36 locations with approx. area 33 658 225 m<sup>2</sup>;
2019
         \rightarrow 48 locations with approx. area 50 283 513 m<sup>2</sup>;
2018
         \rightarrow 25 locations with approx. area 11 070 000 m<sup>2</sup>;
2017
          → 10 locations, SB-190 cross-profiles and 35 longitudinal
2016
profiles-616.31km;
2015
         \rightarrow 11 locations, SB-628 cross-profiles - 552 km;
         \rightarrow 16 locations, SB-1 988 cross-profiles - 2 227.27 km;
2014
         \rightarrow 4 locations, SB-103 cross-profiles - 100 km.
2013
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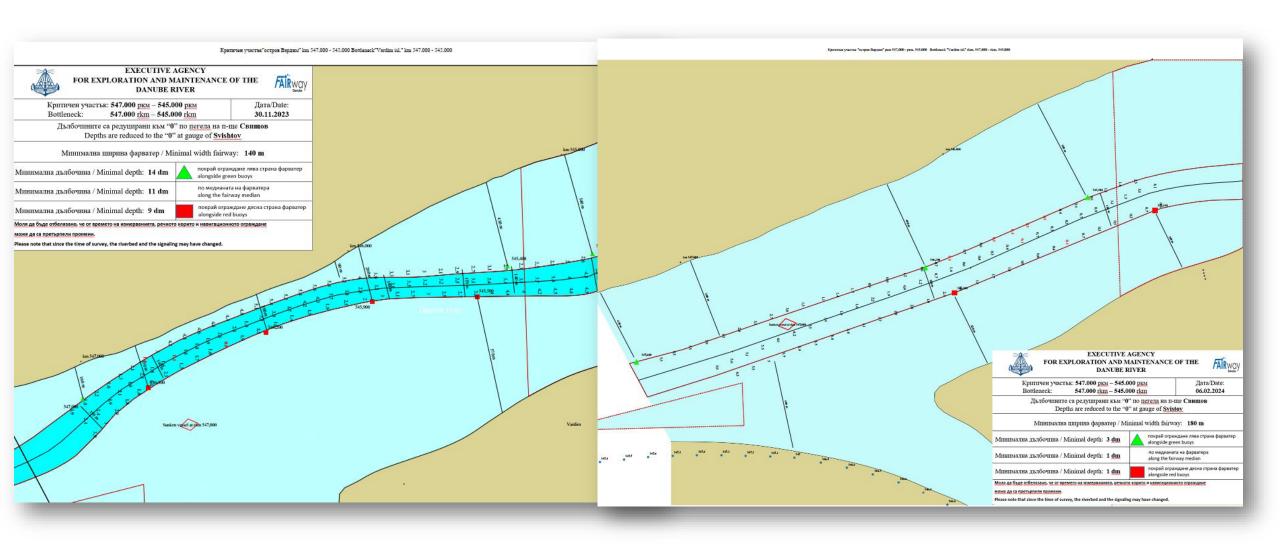
MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

During the period the marking vessel "Osam" and the surveying vessels "Dunav-1" and "Rs 2070" performed 65 field trips in total

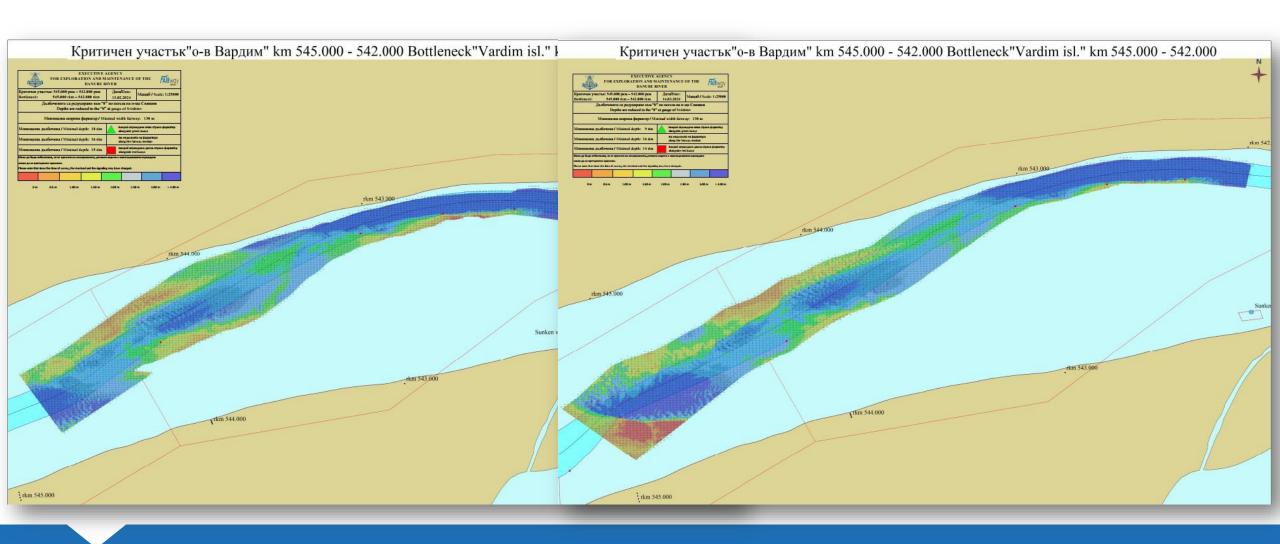
In 2024 the fairway trajectory changed on the following bottlenecks:

- rkm. 546.000 rkm. 544.000 as of 25.01.2024;
- rkm. 545.000 rkm. 542.000 as of 15.02.2024;
- rkm. 546.000 rkm. 544.000 as of 17.04.2024;
- rkm. 388.000 rkm. 385.000 as of 10.05.2024;
- rkm. 394.000 rkm. 392.000 as of 30.05.2024;
- rkm. 546.000 rkm. 544.000 as of 07.06.2024;
- rkm. 394.000 rkm. 392.000 as of 17.08.2024;
- rkm. 565.000 rkm. 563.000 as of 28.08.2024;
- rkm. 388.000 rkm. 385.000 as of 04.09.2024;
- rkm. 394.000 rkm. 392.000 as of 26.09.2024;
- rkm. 529.000 rkm. 526.000 as of 11.10.2024;
- rkm. 529.000 rkm. 525.000 as of 19.12.2024.

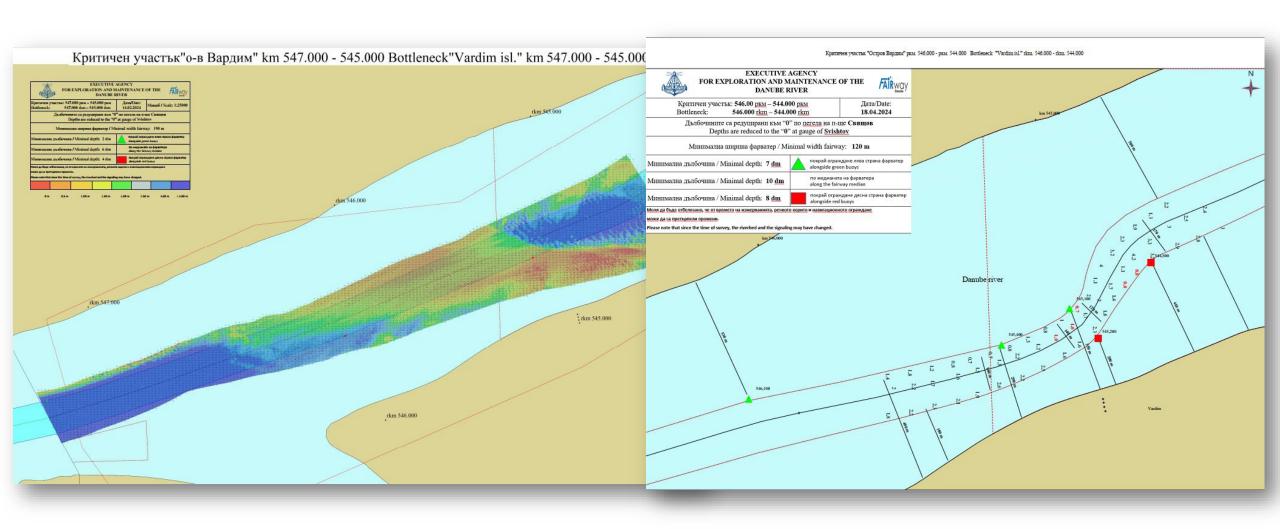
Fairway relocation at Vardim island (January 2024)



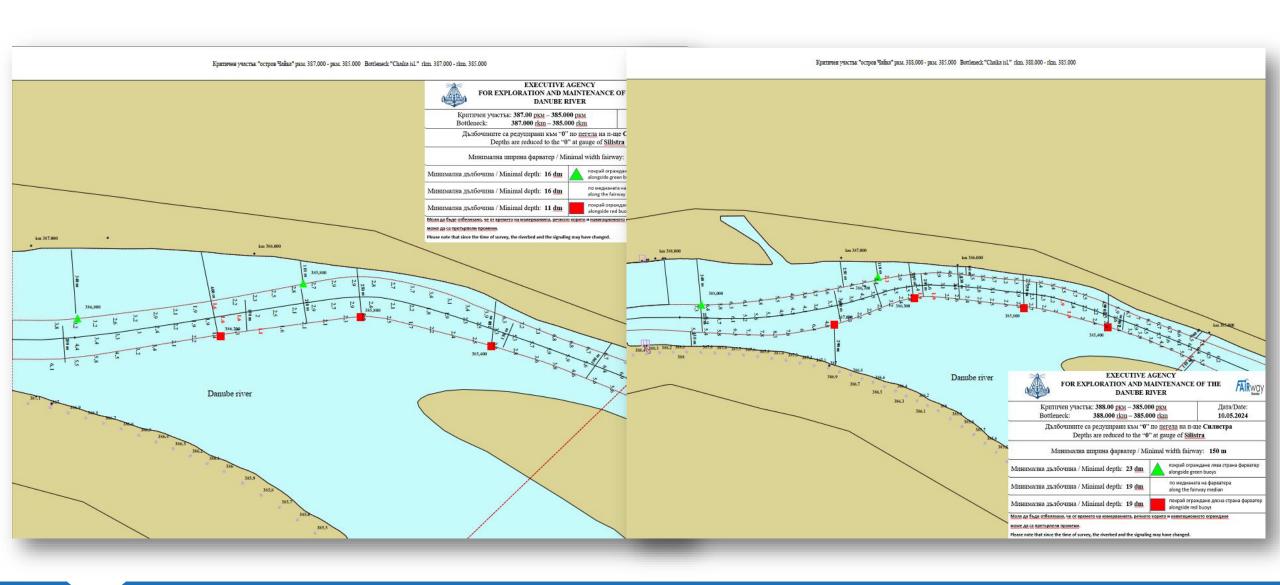
Fairway relocation at Vardim island (February 2024)



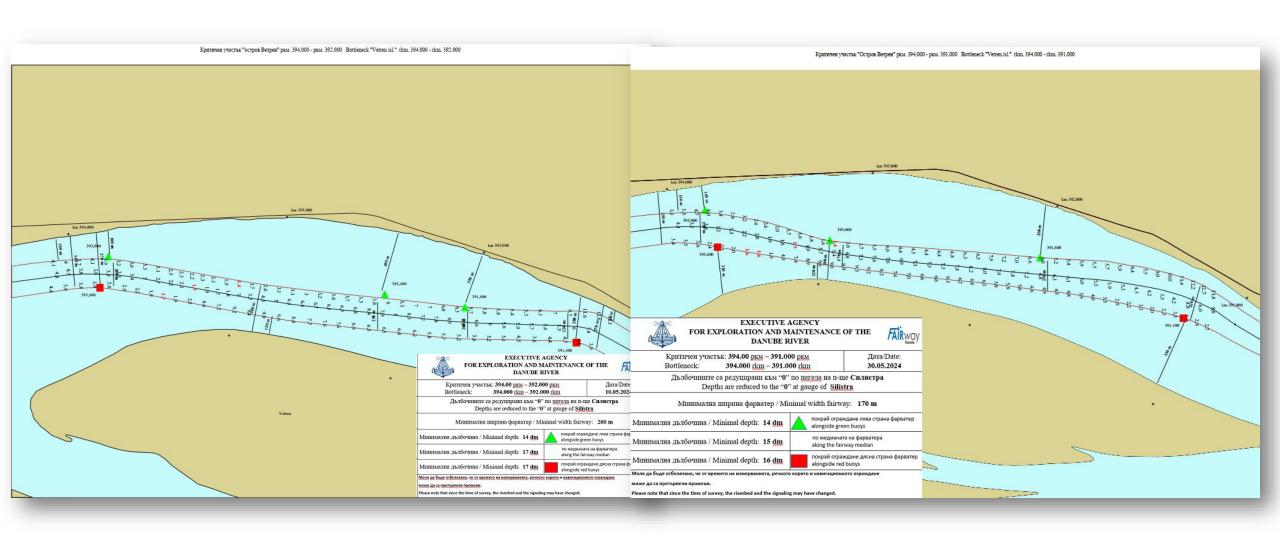
Fairway relocation at Vardim island (April 2024)



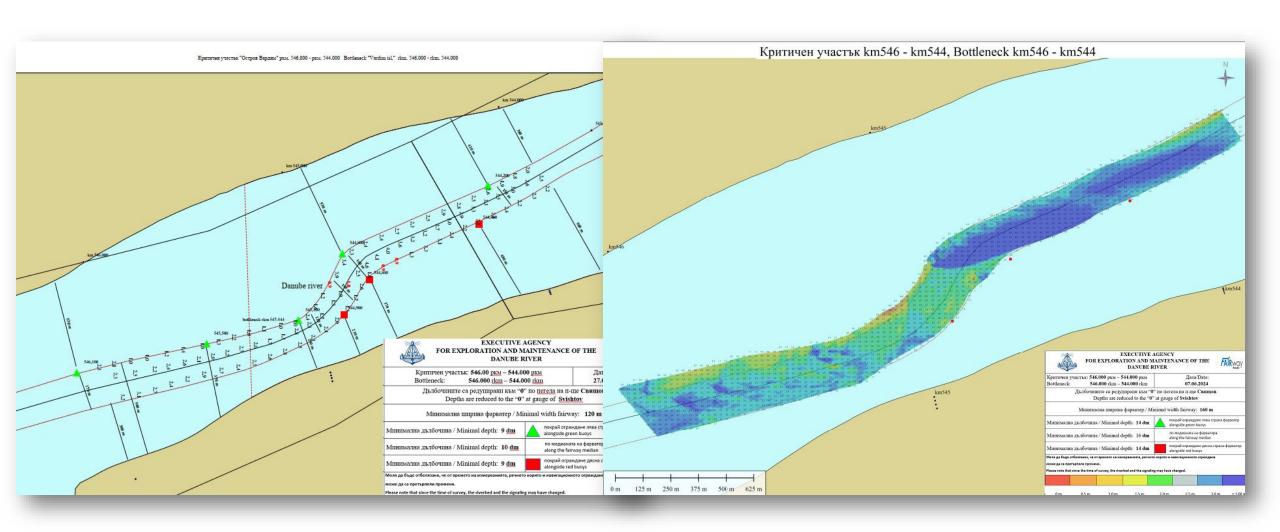
Fairway relocation at Chayka island (May 2024)



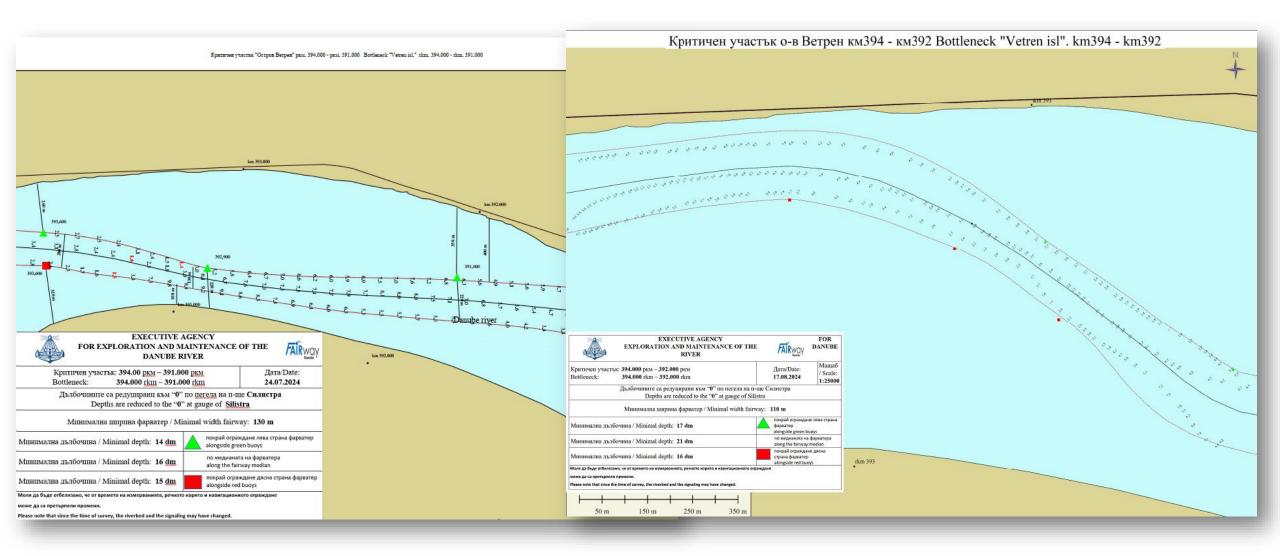
Fairway relocation at Vetren island (May 2024)



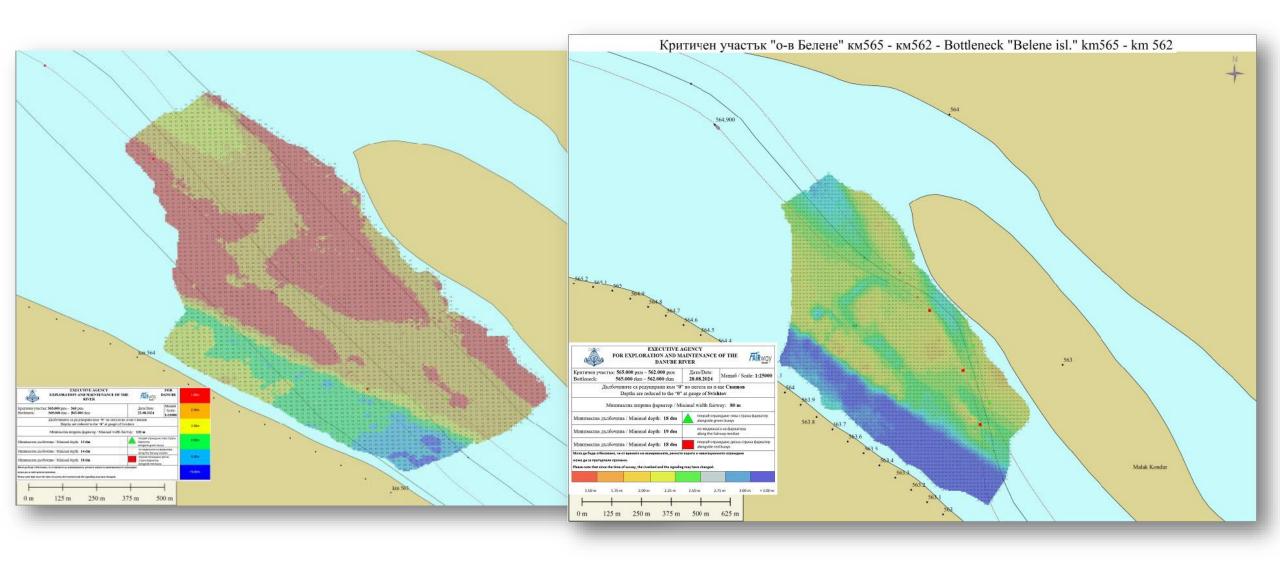
Fairway relocation at Vardim island (June 2024)



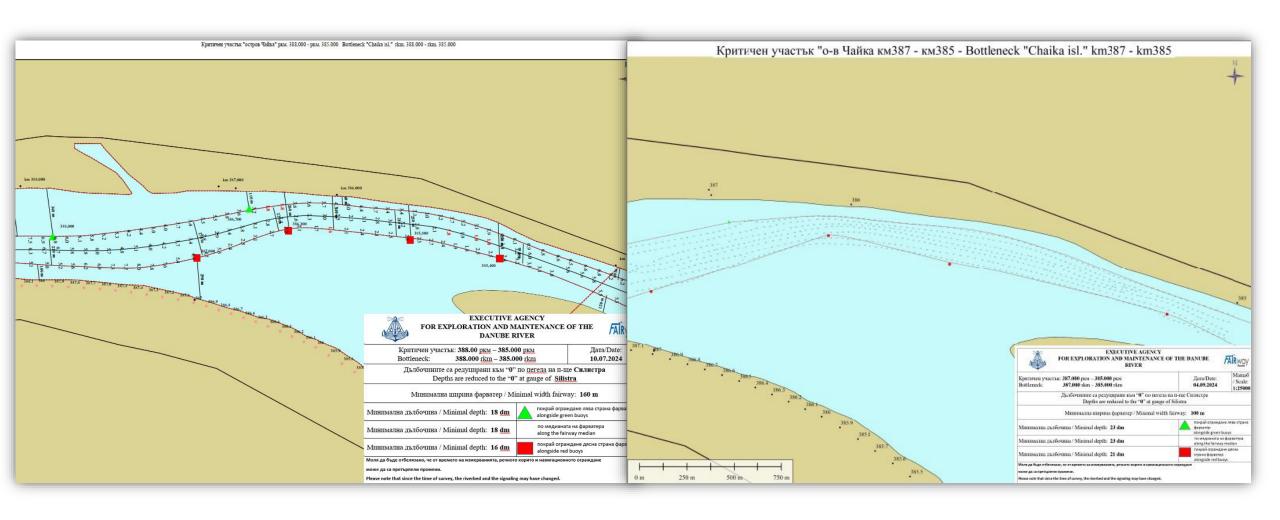
Fairway relocation at Vetren island (August 2024)



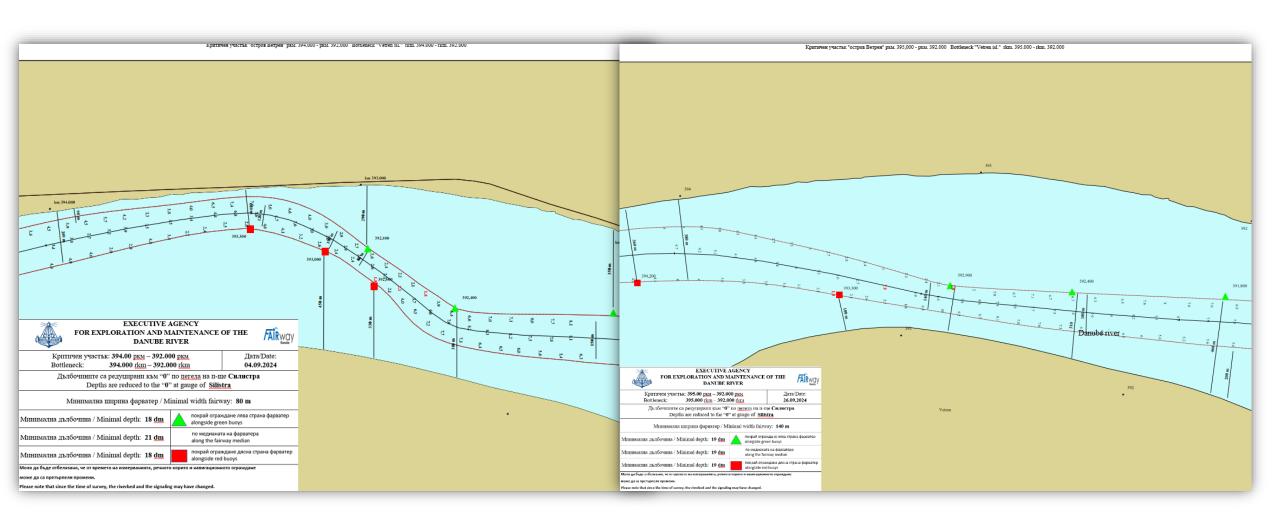
Fairway relocation at Belene island (August 2024)



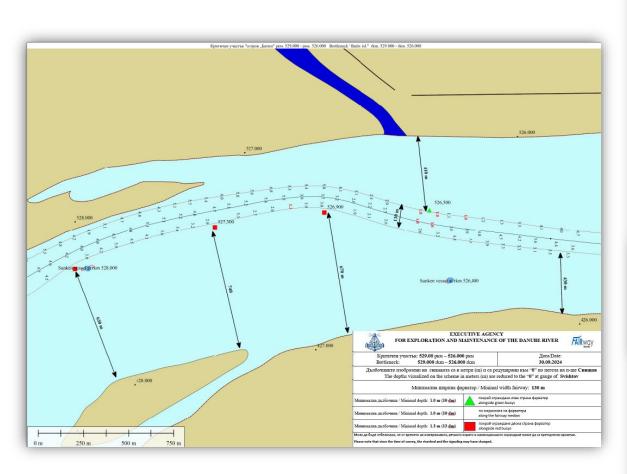
Fairway relocation at Belene island (September 2024)

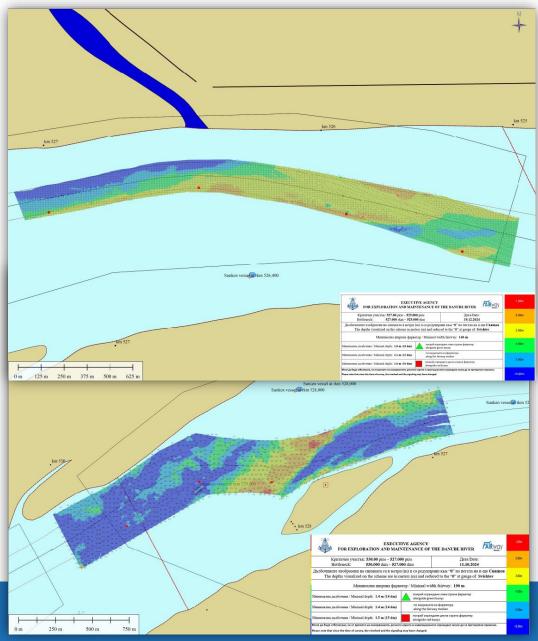


Fairway relocation at Vetren island (September 2024)

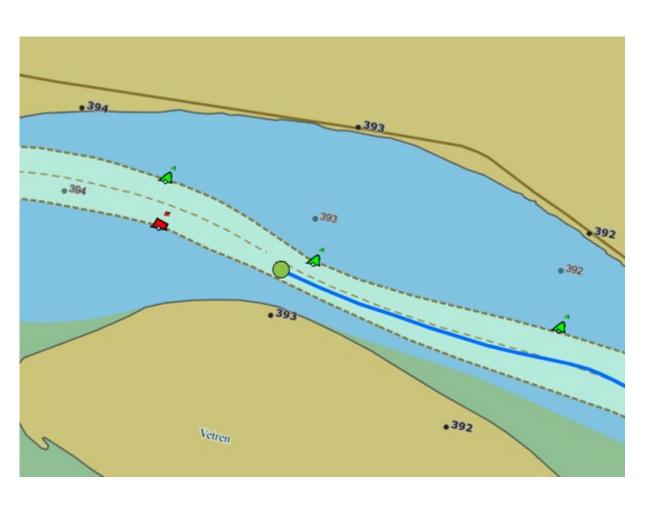


Fairway relocation at Batin island (October 2024)





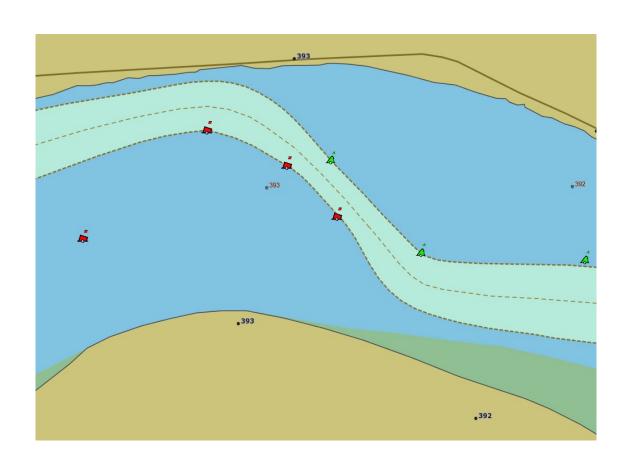
Stranded vessel on a sandbar

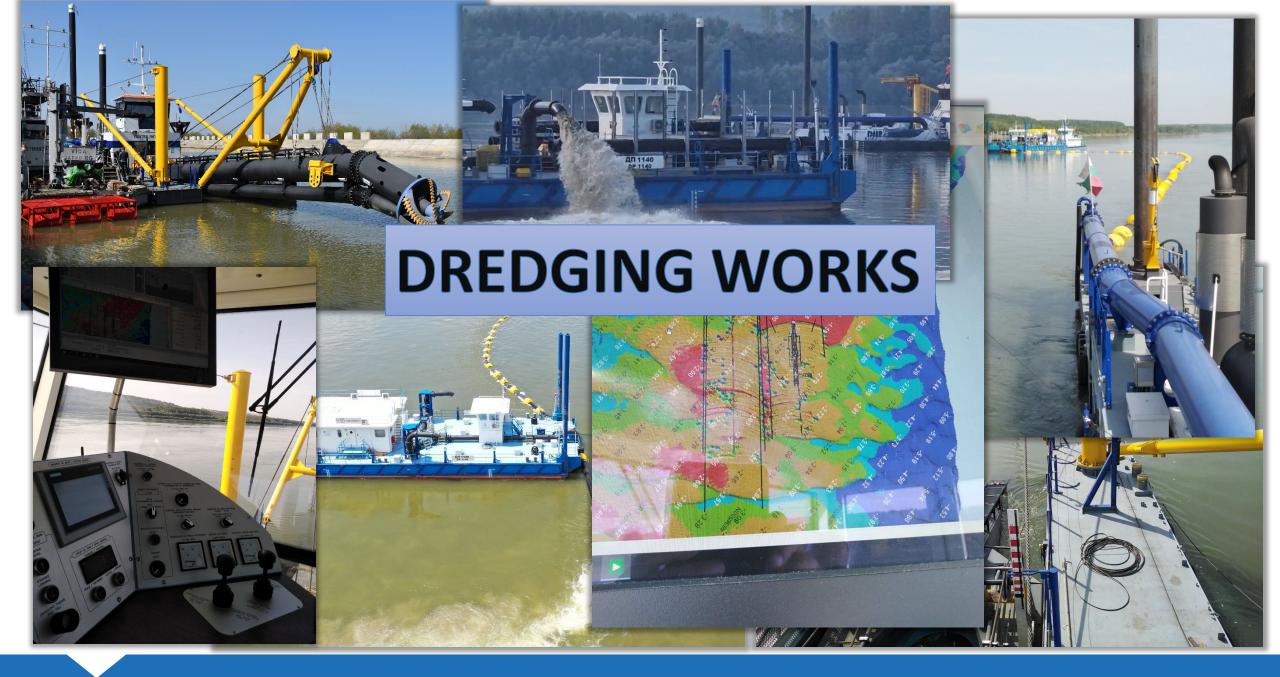


Sailing against the current with two loaded sections, a vessel ran aground in the middle of the fairway at km 393,000. The captain was explicitly warned about the minimum calculated depths for the day, for a critical section 395,000-392,000 (22dm), but he said that the maximum draught of his convoy was 23dm. When asked why he did not comply with the information from the operator on duty, he stated that according to the measurements from another vessel, the depth was 23dm. The fairway was closed.

Stranded vessel on a sandbar

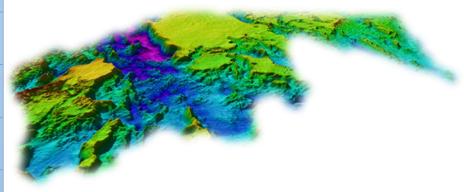
After the vessel ran aground, the next vessel passing through this section ran aground in the middle of the fairway at km 393,000, 117 m from the green buoy at km 392,900 and 577 m from the green buoy at 393,600. According to the information from the vessel's captain, its draught was 1.80 m and it encountered a sandbar with a depth of 1.4 m, and the minimum depth for the day in the area according to the information from the EAEMDR is 2.15 m. The vessel ran aground under its own efforts and continued its voyage against the current. This sandbar was formed as a result of the intensive morphological processes during the attempts to run aground by the first ship. After urgent intervention on our part, the fairway was changed.





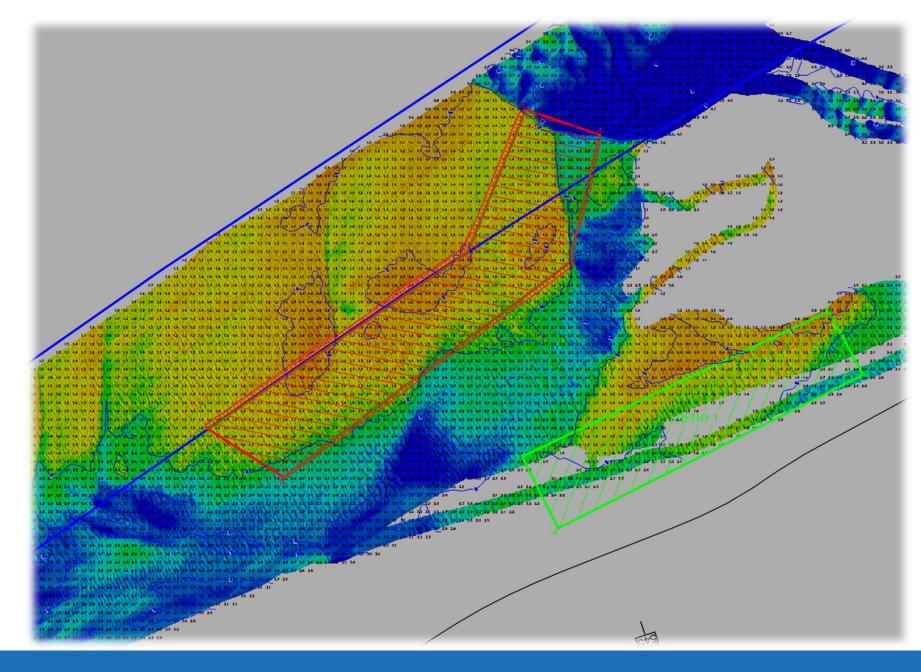
Dredging activities

From	То	Dredged quantity, m ³	Location
04.04.2024	14.04.2024	11876	km 544.900 - km 544.700
27.04.2024	06.06.2024	93198	km 545.400 - km 544.900
15.07.2024	29.07.2024	59407	km 545.300 - km 544.600
17.07.2024	04.08.2024	10587	km 531.100 - km 530.900
08.08.2024	12.08.2024	20076	km 609.100 - km 608.500
31.08.2024	03.09.2024	21777	km 526.900 - km 526.500
25.10.2024	01.11.2024	32235	km 528.500 - km 527.900
03.11.2024	07.11.2024	33524	km 564.000 - km 563.500
18.11.2024	21.11.2024	16739	km 543.200 - km 542.800

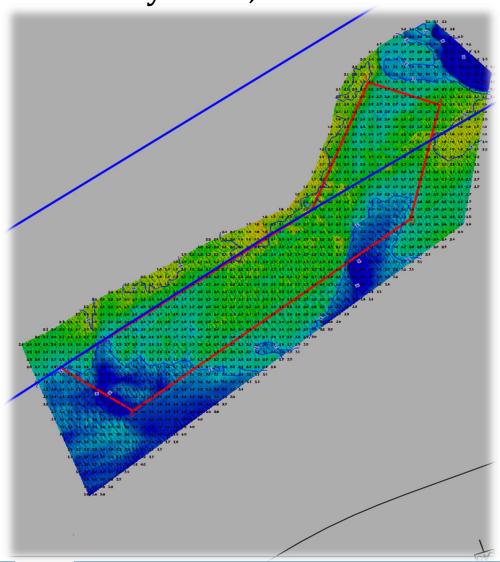


Total amount 299 419 m³ 276 956 m³ with hired equipment

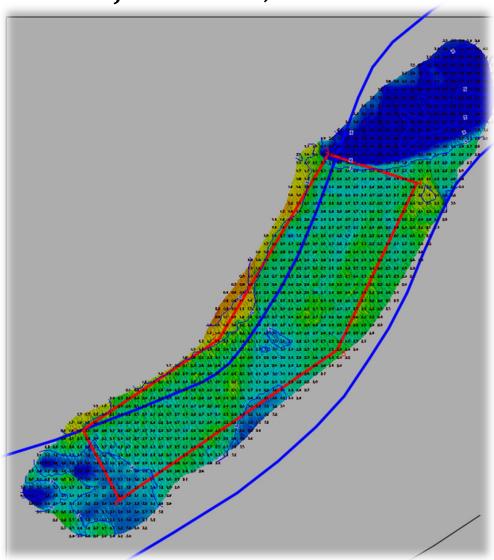
Vardim before dredging April 2024, km545



Vardim after dredging May 2024, km545

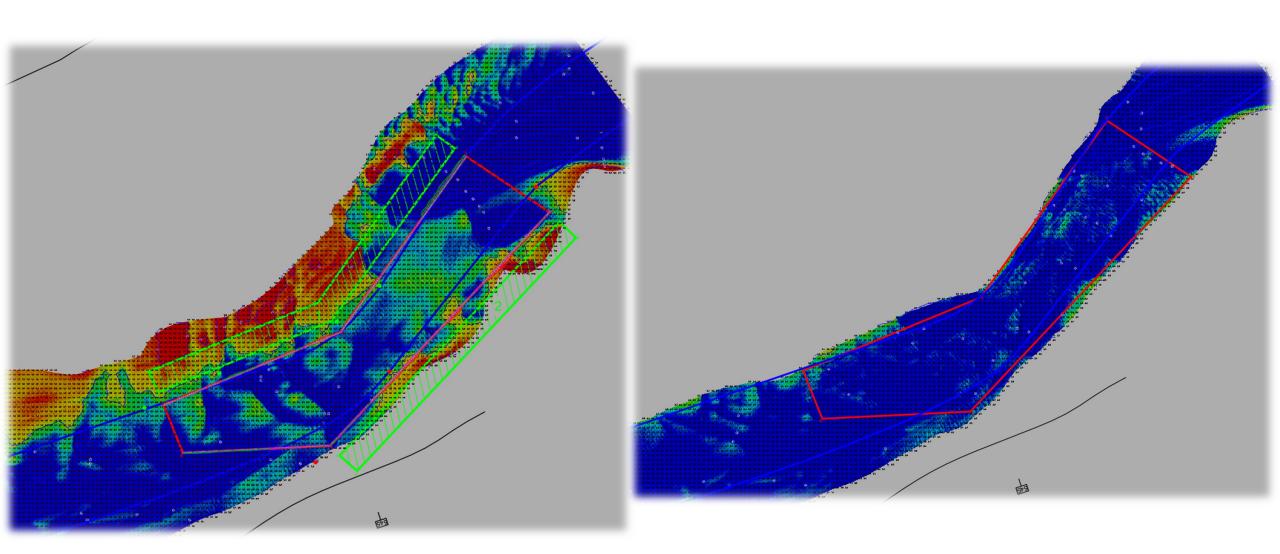


Vardim after dredging June 2024, km545

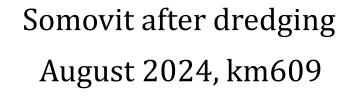


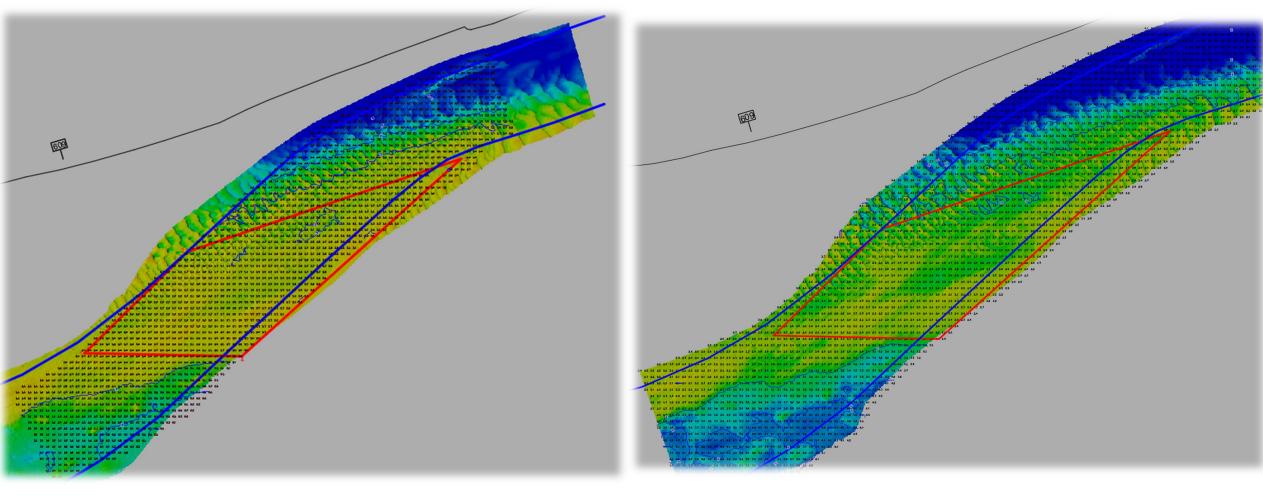
Vardim before dredging June 2024, km545

Vardim after dredging July 2024, km545

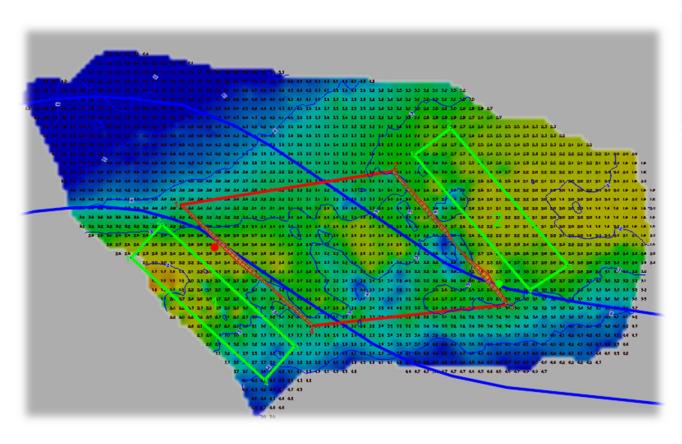


Somovit before dredging August 2024, km609

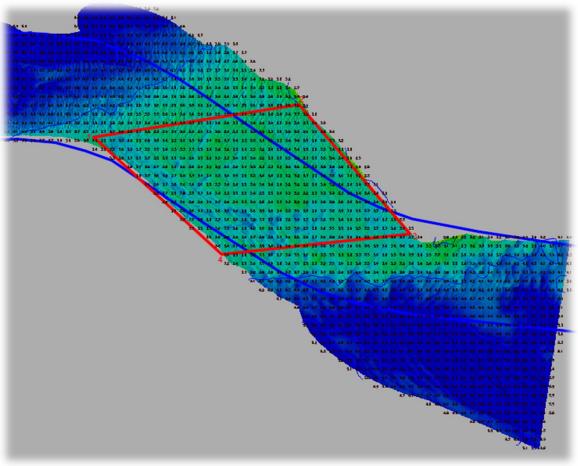




Batin before dredging August 2024, km526

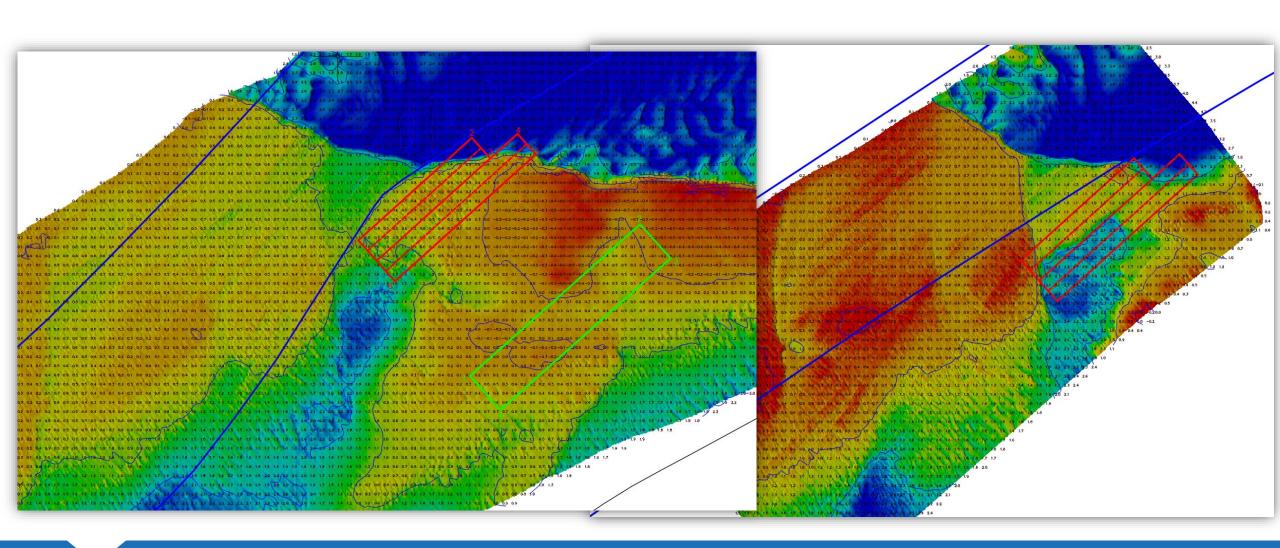


Batin after dredging September, km526

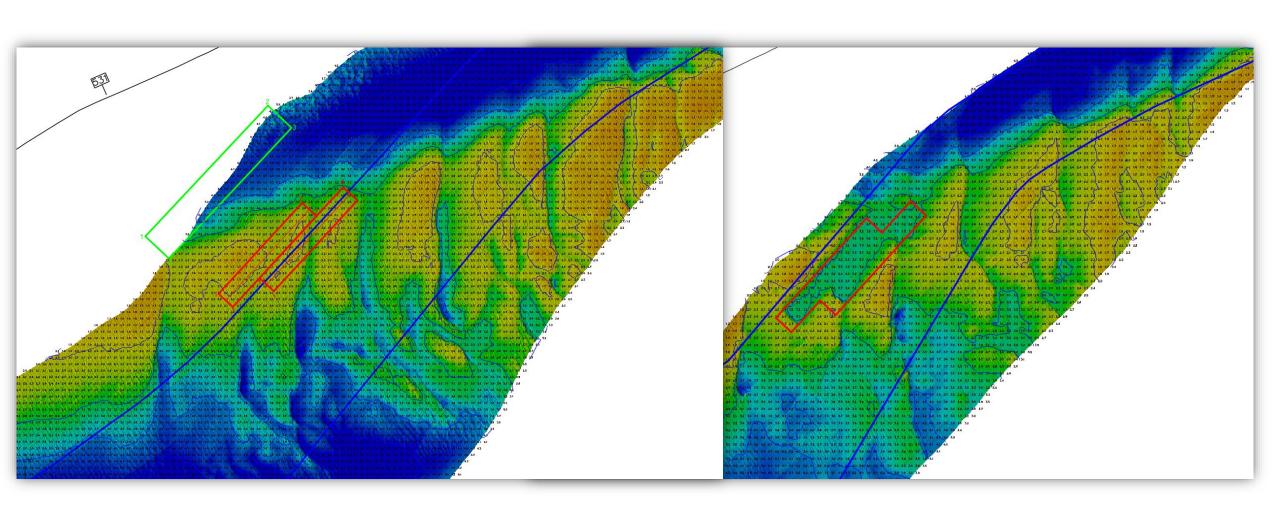


Vardim before dredging April 2024, km545

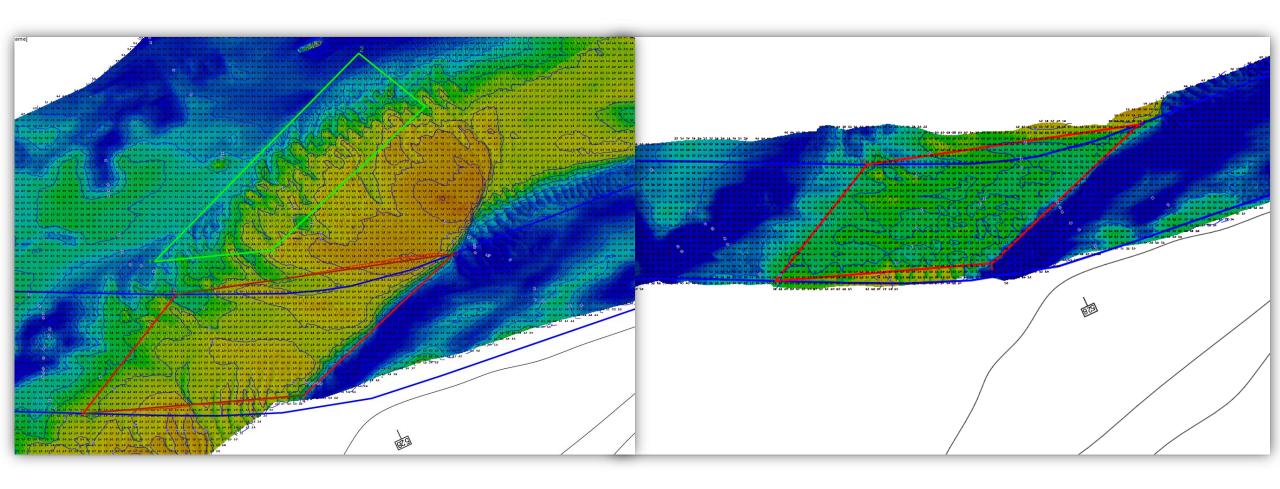
Vardim after dredging April 2024, km545



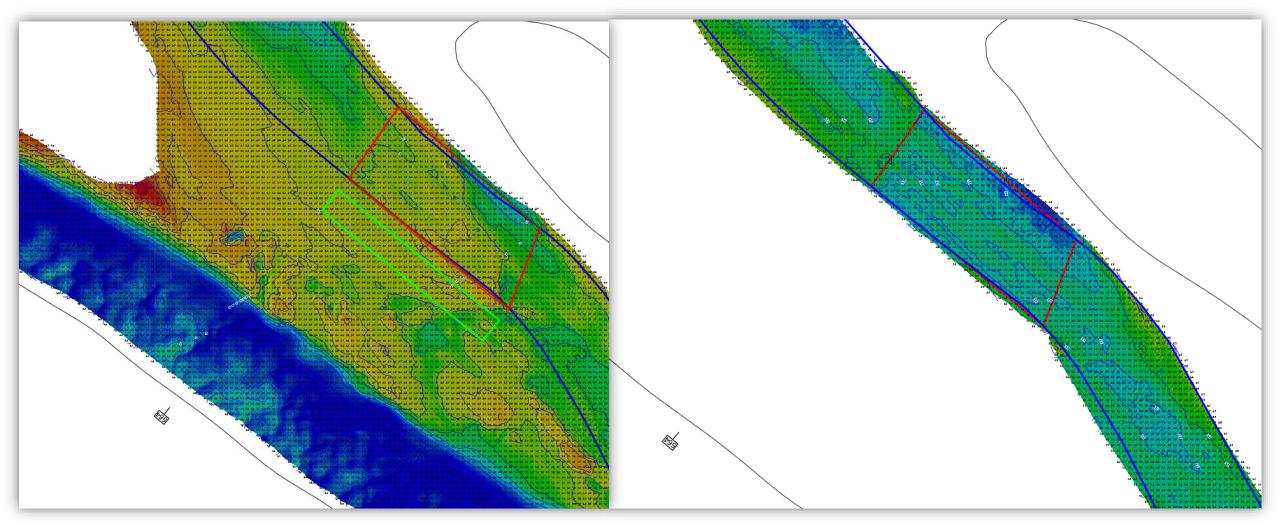
Batin before dredging July 2024, km531 Batin after dredging August 2024, km531



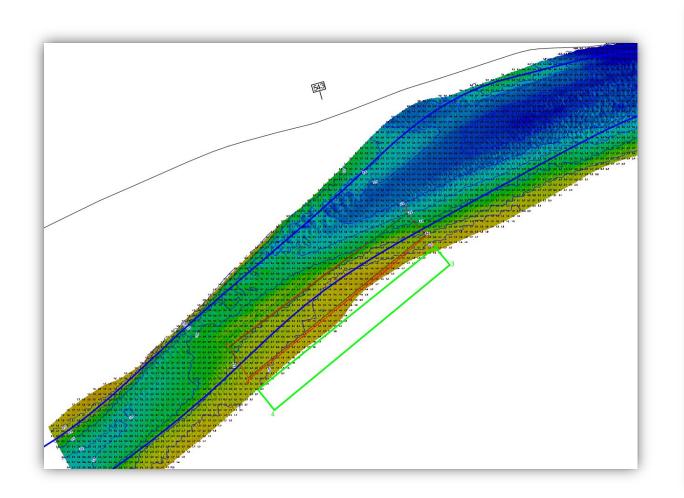
Batin before dredging October 2024, km528 Batin after dredging November 2024, km528



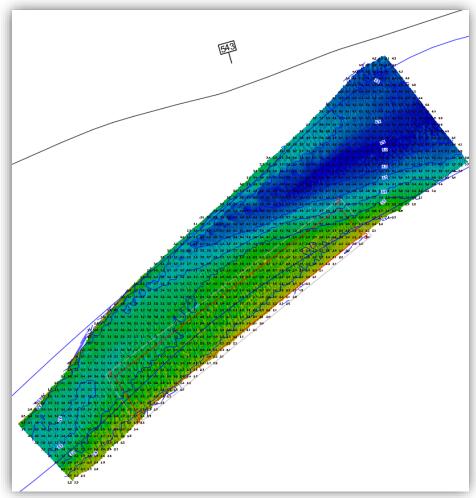
Belene before dredging November 2024, km564 Belene after dredging November 2024, km564



Vardim before dredging November 2024, km543



Vardim after dredging November 2024, km543



- In 2025, we plan dredging activities in the amount of about 300,000 m³ with a hired contractor and about 50,000 m³ with our own equipment.
- EAEMDR has a contract (with external contractor) for dredging activities that is in force until October 2025.
- Currently, we are at the stage of preparing the documentation for announcing a public procurement procedure for selecting a contractor to carry out the dredging activities after the expiration of the current contract.
- Financing for carrying out dredging activities has been secured from own budget.

- The project scope of work for maintenance dredging in critical sections is based on data from the preliminary hydrographic surveys conducted. The project volumes are derived as estimated results of a mathematical analysis developed within the framework of the preliminary surveys, which tracked the processes in the riverbed after corrections were made to the critical sections.
- In May, a specific part of the most critical threshold section will be selected for dredging, as well as areas for depositing the dredged sediments. A dredging plan will be prepared for assignment to an external contractor.
- At this time, the most critical area is expected to be near Vardim Island at km 546,000 545,000, with the estimated amount of dredged material expected to be around 100,000 m³.

- In June dredging activities are planned in the area of Belene Island at km 565.000 563.000 with an estimated amount of about 80,000 m3.
- Dredging activities are planned (with own equipment) at Batin Island (km 531) and at Vetren Island (km 393.000 392.000) with a total estimated amount of about 50,000 m³.
- Other dredging sites will be selected when a limiting threshold appears, depending on the hydromorphological processes during the year. A potential one is near the town of Somovit at km 609, where regular measurements are planned to be carried out.

Dredging works will be performed only after analysis of bathymetric surveys, water level forecasts, water current data and meteorological forecasts in Upper and Middle Danube.

Potential bottlenecks to be dredged in 2024:

- Somovit (km610-km609);
- Belene (km577-km574.800);
 - Belene (km566-km562);
 - Batin (km523-km520);
 - Batin (km531-km529);
 - Batin (km526-km524);
 - Bryshlan (km458-km455);
 - Vardim (km547-km546);
 - Vardim (km545-km543);
 - Vardim (km543-km540);
 - Popina (km407-km404);
 - Yantra (km538-km537)
 - Vetren (km394-km392)

Km	Степен на важност 2024 г.	Бр. измервания годишно	март	април	май	юни	юли	август	септември	октомври
387.000 - 382.000		3	1		1		1			
396.000 - 392.000		2		1		1				
400.000 - 398.000		1					1			
408.000 - 403.000		3		1		1		1		
414.000 - 412.000		1			1					
423.000 – 421.000		2	1			1				
425.000 - 423.000		1						1		
428.000 - 425.000		1						1		
439.000 - 436.000		1								1
458.000 - 453.000		3	1		1		1			
463.000 – 460.000		2	1			1				
476.000 - 472.000		1		1						
490.000 - 487.000		2	1						1	
525.000 - 520.000		2		1		1				
529.000 - 527.000		2		1			1			
533.000 - 530.000		2		1			1			
539.000 - 536.000		2			1			1		
542.000 - 540.000		1						1		
545.000 - 542.000		5	1		1		1		1	1
547.000 - 545.000		5	1		1		1	1		1
556.000 - 554.000		1				1				
562.000 - 559.000		1		1				1		
565.000 - 563.000		6	1		1		1	1	1	1
576.000 - 573.000		3		1			1		1	
586.000 - 584.000		1				1				
591.000 - 589.000		1				1				
610.000 - 607.000		3				1			1	1
Зимовник и подход		2	1						1	
507.000 – 506.000 зимно уб.		1	1							
385.000 – 384.000 зимно уб.		1	1							
561.000 – 560.000 зимно уб.		1	1							
524.000 – 523.000 зимно уб.		1		1						
425.000 – 422.000 зимно уб.		1			1					
мост Видин - Калафат		1		1						

Hydrographic Measurement Schedule 2025 with multi-beam

(The kilometers are approximate and may be adjusted according to morphological changes in a given section and the degree of criticality in the current year.)

Studying the hydrological regime of the Danube River

Measurement of water discharge at the main hydrometric profiles	24		
Water level measurement	3650		
Water temperature measurement	2190		
Velocity and water discharge measurement in island branches etc.	6		
Velocity measurement in the area of the Ruse - Giurgiu bridge	2		
Velocity measurement in the area of the Vidin-Calafat bridge	1		
Coordination and exchange of measurement results in 2024 with AFDJ	2		

Studying of the hydromorphological regime in the Bulgarian section of the Danube river

Hydrographic images of sunken vessels	1
Hydrographic images of mooring places	1
Hydrographic images of critical for navigation areas	60 km^2
Hydrographic images at the Ruse - Giurgiu bridge	2
Hydrographic images at the Vidin - Calafat bridge	1
Cross-profiles at the gauging stations	6
Mapping the outlines of coasts and islands	10 km
Hydrographic images at quarries for the extraction of alluvial deposits	1
Hydrographic images on island channels, natural winter harbors	5

Ensuring safe and unhindered navigation in the Bulgarian section of the Danube River

Issuance and dissemination of hydrological forecasts	365
Issuance and distribution of a hydrological and navigational newsletter	365
Storm warnings and notices to skippers	1500
Conducting and disseminating meteorological observations	24090

Ensuring safe and unhindered navigation in the Bulgarian section of the Danube River

Objective	Activity	Quantity
Marking the fairway with	Field trips with up to two vessels in the	With about 170 navigation
floating navigation signs	direction of Ruse - Somovit and Ruse -	buoys for the entire period
	Silistra for the maintenance of	
	navigational conditions	
Maintenance of coastal	Cleaning and rehabilitation of coastal	Maintenance of 470 coastal
signaling between the	signaling	km signs, 17 coastal
mouth of the Timok River		lighthouses and other
and Silistra		coastal navigation signs
Hydrographic images with a	Taking current hydrographic images of	Between 4 and 8
single-beam echo sounder	the critical sections between Silistra and	hydrographic images per
	Somovit	trip
Publishing hydrographic	Processing and publishing of the	Depending on the
images on the APPD website	hydrographic images	hydrographic images taken

Operating costs of the activity in 2024 and estimated budget for 2025

Areas	Operational expenditures 2024	Required operational budget 2025
Minimum fairway parameters (width/depth)	2 427 348	1 953 926
Surveying of the riverbed	104 267	119 642
Water level gauges, Information on water levels and forecasts, Meteorological information	92 682	106 349
Marking of the fairway	289 630	332 340
Other	34 756	39 880
Sum (Euro)	2 948 683	2 552 137

Thank you for your attention!

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